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## GOP's Jordan says he's still running for House gavel, but there's no plan for next action

By LISA MASCARO, FARNOUSH AMIRI, STEPHEN GROVES and KEVING FREKING

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Refusing to drop out, Republican Rep. Jim Jordan told GOP colleagues Thursday he was still running to be House speaker but would back a longshot plan to give someone else the gavel for the next several months as he works to shore up support to win the post himself.

Jordan delivered the message at a fiery closed-door meeting at the Capitol as the Republican majority considered an extraordinary plan to give the interim Speaker Pro-tempore Rep. Patrick McHenry more powers until January to reopen the House and conduct crucial business, according to Republicans familiar with the private meeting who insisted on anonymity to discuss it.

But neither option — choose Jordan or a temporary stand-in — seems immediately viable. And the House is now weeks into an unprecedented stalemate after the ouster of Kevin McCarthy, grinding business to a halt and threatening economic and other damage.



Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, arrives for the Republican caucus meeting at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023.

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Associated Press  
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# GOP's Jordan says he's still running for House gavel, but there's no plan for next action

Continued from Front

"I'm still running for speaker and I plan to go to the floor and get the votes and win this race," said Jordan, the combative Judiciary Committee chairman and a chief ally of Donald Trump. But when? Jordan told the room he would confer with his wife, speak to the more than 20 holdouts who have refused to give him the gavel and ask McCarthy to give a nominating speech. Then he would decide what and when his next move would be.

Thursday's meeting grew heated at times with Republican factions blaming one another for sending their majority into chaos, lawmakers said.

When Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, a chief architect of the ouster of the speaker two weeks ago, rose to speak, McCarthy told him it was not his turn.

"It's like a Thanksgiving dinner," Gaetz said afterward. With Jordan refusing to concede and his hard-right detractors rejecting the longshot idea of installing McHenry as a temporary speaker, there are few options left to put the shattered House back to normal.

The House convened briefly at midday Thursday, but no action was taken, the schedule ahead uncertain. There is a sinking realization that the House could remain endlessly stuck, out of service and without a leader for the foreseeable future as the Republican majority spirals deeper into dysfunction.

"We're trying to figure out if there's a way we can get back with a Republican-only solution," said veteran legislator Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla.

"That's what normal majorities do. What this majority has done is prove it's not a normal majority."

Elevating McHenry to an expanded speaker's role would not be as politically simple as it might seem. The hard-right Republican lawmakers including some



**Temporary House leader Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., talks with Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, as Republicans try to elect Jordan in a second ballot to be the new House speaker, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023.**

Associated Press

who ousted McCarthy, don't like the idea.

"Asinine," said Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, a leader of far-right House Freedom Caucus.

While Democrats have suggested the arrangement, Republicans are loathe to partner with the Democrats in a bipartisan way. And it's highly unlikely Republicans could vote to give McHenry more powers on their own, even though they have majority control of the House.

"It's a bad precedent and I don't support it," said Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., the Freedom Caucus chairman.

McHenry himself has brushed off attempts to take the job more permanently after he was appointed to the role after the unprecedented ouster of Kevin McCarthy more than two weeks ago.

"I did not ask for additional powers," said McHenry of North Carolina, a Republican who is well-liked by his colleagues and viewed as a highly competent legislator. "My duty is to get the next speaker elected. That's my focus."

A McCarthy ally Rep. David Valadao, R-Calif., said there was a show of hands at the private meeting asking members whether they would support the pro-tempore effort but it was just "a small number that raised their hands."

"I just don't know if the numbers are there," he said.

Next steps were highly uncertain as angry, frustrated Republicans looked at other options. Some predict the House could stay essentially shuttered, as it has been almost all month, until the mid-November deadline for Congress to approve funding or risk a federal government shutdown.

"I think clearly Nov. 17 is a real date," said Rep. Kevin Hern, R-Okla., who leads a large conservative caucus, referring to the next deadline.

What was clear was that Jordan's path to become House speaker was almost certainly lost.

On Wednesday, Jordan, a founding member of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus failed in a crucial second ballot, opposed by

22 Republicans, two more than he lost in first-round voting the day before.

Many view the Ohio congressman as too extreme for a central seat of U.S. power and resented the harassing hardball tactics from Jordan's allies for their votes. Several lawmakers said they had received death threats.

"One thing I cannot stomach or support is a bully," said a statement from Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, who voted against Jordan on the second ballot and said she received "credible death threats and a barrage of threatening calls."

Wednesday's new holdouts added to a surprisingly large and politically diverse group of 20 Republicans who had rejected Jordan's nomination on Tuesday.

To win over his GOP colleagues, Jordan had relied on backing from Trump, the party's front-runner in the 2024 election to challenge President Joe Biden, and groups pressuring rank-and-file lawmakers for the vote. But they were not enough and in fact back-

fired on some.

Flexing their independence, the holdouts are a mix of pragmatists — ranging from seasoned legislators and committee chairs worried about governing, to newer lawmakers from districts where voters prefer Biden to Trump. Jordan's refusal to concede only further embittered some of the Republicans.

"The way out is that Jim Jordan has got to pull his name," said Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., who voted twice against him. "He's going to have to call it quits." With Republicans in majority control of the House, 221-212, Jordan must pick up most of his GOP foes to win. Wednesday's tally, with 199 Republicans voting for Jordan and 212 for Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, left no candidate with a clear majority.

The novel concept of boosting the interim speaker's role was gaining favor with a pair of high-profile Republicans: former GOP speakers Newt Gingrich and John Boehner.

But it seemed to be slipping away as Republicans could not put it in place on their own, and refused to reach across the aisle to Democrats who have expressed a willingness to consider the option.

Jordan has been a top Trump ally, particularly during the Jan. 6 Capitol attack by the former president's backers who were trying to overturn the 2020 election he lost to Biden. Days later, Trump awarded Jordan a Medal of Freedom.

First elected in 2006, Jordan has few bills to his name from his time in office. He also faces questions about his past. Some years ago, Jordan denied allegations from former wrestlers during his time as an assistant wrestling coach at Ohio State University who accused him of knowing about claims they were inappropriately groped by an Ohio State doctor. Jordan has said he was never aware of any abuse. □



# China is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal faster than previous projections, a U.S. report says

By TARA COPP and LOLITA C. BALDOR

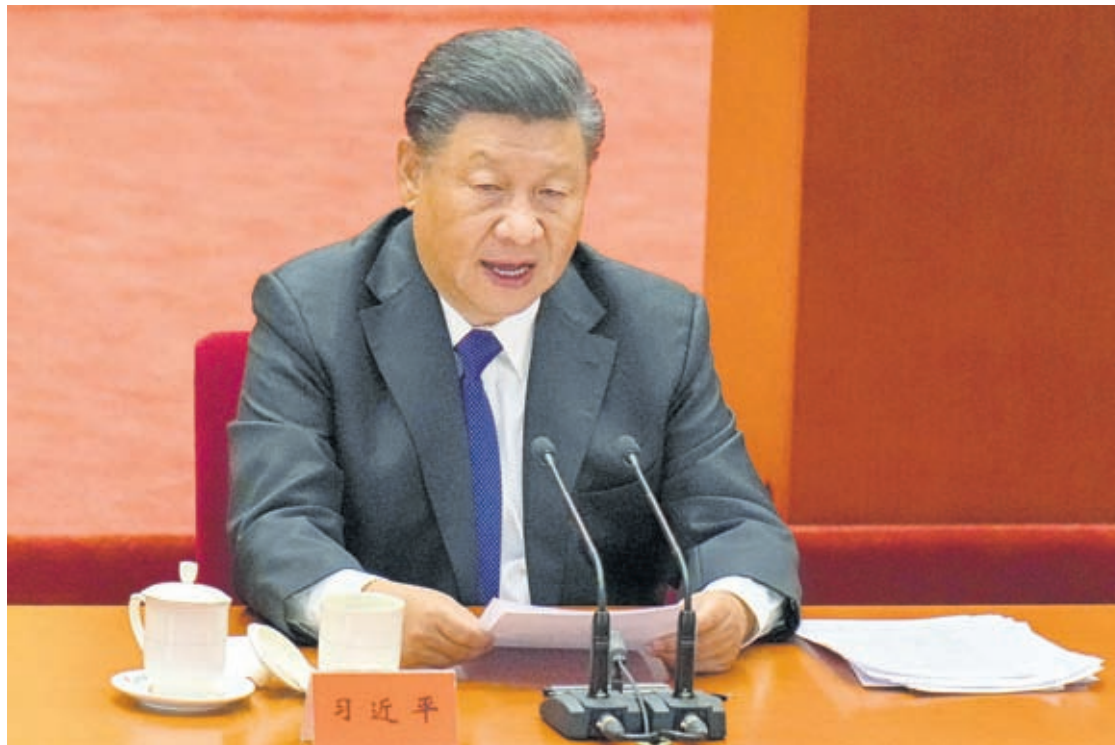
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A Pentagon report on China's military power says Beijing is exceeding previous projections of how quickly it is building up its nuclear weapons arsenal and is "almost certainly" learning lessons from Russia's war in Ukraine about what a conflict over Taiwan might look like.

The report released Thursday also warns that China may be pursuing a new intercontinental missile system using conventional arms that, if fielded, would allow Beijing "to threaten conventional strikes against targets in the continental United States, Hawaii and Alaska."

The China report comes a month before an expected meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden on the sidelines of next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

The annual report, required by Congress, is one way the Pentagon measures the growing military capa-



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at an event commemorating the 110th anniversary of Xinhai Revolution at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Oct. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

bilities of China, which the U.S. government sees as its key threat in the region and America's primary long-term security challenge.

But after Hamas's Oct. 7 attacks on Israel, the U.S. has been forced again to focus on the Middle East, instead of its widely promoted pivot to the Pacific to counter China's growth. The U.S. is rushing weapons to Israel while continuing to sup-

port and deliver munitions to Ukraine in its 20-month struggle to repel Russia's invasion.

Still, the Pentagon's national defense strategy is shaped around China remaining the greatest security challenge for the U.S., and that the threat from Beijing will determine how the U.S. military is equipped and shaped for the future. The Pentagon report builds

on the military's warning last year that China was expanding its nuclear force much faster than U.S. officials had predicted, highlighting a broad and accelerating buildup of military muscle designed to enable Beijing to match or surpass U.S. global power by mid-century.

Last year's report warned that Beijing was rapidly modernizing its nuclear

force and was on track to nearly quadruple the number of warheads it has to 1,500 by 2035. The United States has 3,750 active nuclear warheads.

The 2023 report finds that Beijing is on pace to field more than 1,000 nuclear warheads by 2030, continuing a rapid modernization aimed at meeting Xi's goal of having a "world class" military by 2049.

After the previous report, China accused the U.S. of ratcheting up tensions and Beijing said it was still committed to a "no first use" policy on nuclear weapons.

The Pentagon has seen no indication that China is moving away from that policy but assesses there may be some circumstances where China might judge that it does not apply, a senior U.S. defense said without providing details. The official briefed reporters Wednesday on condition of anonymity before the report's release.

The U.S. does not adhere to a "no first use" policy and says nuclear weapons would be used only in "extreme circumstances." □

# While visiting wartime Israel, New York governor learns of her father's sudden death back home

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — The New York governor's father died overnight while she was visiting wartime Israel, with the governor slipping a note grieving her loss into Jerusalem's Western Wall holy site on Thursday.

Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul learned of her 87-year-old father John Courtney's sudden death from a brain hemorrhage in Florida as she embarked on the second day of a trip to show support for Israel during its war with Hamas.

At the Western Wall, Hochul appeared to wipe away a tear before placing a handwritten note with prayers for Israel and for her father into a crack in the

limestone wall.

Hochul told reporters she spoke to her father from the airport just before she departed for Israel ear-

lier this week, a small smile peeking through as she recalled how he still talked in "his gruff Irish way."

"He said, 'I'm proud of you,



New York Governor Kathy Hochul meets with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2023 in Israel.

Associated Press

Dolly, but keep your god-damn head down,'" Hochul said.

The governor's sojourn comes as the Israeli military has relentlessly attacked Gaza in retaliation for a bloody cross-border massacre by Hamas militants in southern Israel almost two weeks ago.

Gaza's Health Ministry said Thursday that 3,785 Palestinians have been killed and nearly 12,500 others have been wounded since the outbreak of the war. More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed and roughly 200 others were abducted and taken into Gaza by Hamas.

Hochul met with Israeli fam-

ilies displaced by the conflict, and heard painful stories from families of American citizens taken hostage by Hamas and from Israelis who have been wounded during the fighting.

She also held meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's ambassador to the U.S. Michael Herzog, and Israeli President Isaac Herzog, reiterating New York's solidarity with Israel.

"As the state with the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, New York and Israel share a bond that will never be broken," Hochul posted on X, formally Twitter. □



# Most in the U.S. see Mexico as a partner despite border problems

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**  
and **LINLEY SANDERS**

**Associated Press**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Most people in the U.S. see Mexico as an essential partner to stop drug trafficking and illegal border crossings, even as they express mixed views of Mexico's government, according to a new poll.

The poll from the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that about two-thirds of Americans see their southern neighbor as having at least a friendly relationship with the U.S. Relatively few within that group, or 16%, consider Mexico a close ally. Meanwhile, U.S. adults are more likely to have an unfavorable (38%) view of Mexico's leadership than a favorable (12%) one. The remaining responded they did not have an unfavorable or favorable view or were not sure.

The poll captures the different perceptions Americans have of Mexico, its leadership and the estimated 10 million immigrants living in the U.S. Mexico is the largest trade partner of the U.S. and both countries have



**Border Patrol Deputy Chief for the Tucson Sector Justin De La Torre walks along the border fence of the U.S.-Mexico border, on Aug. 29, 2023, in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument near Lukeville, Ariz.**

deep diplomatic and cultural ties. But both Washington and Mexico City are under immense pressure to reduce unauthorized migration at their shared border and to stop the trafficking of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids that killed around 75,000 people in the U.S. last year.

"For two countries that are such close neighbors, so intertwined in each others' lives, and have been for

so long, there's still room to grow," said Benjamin Lessing, an associate professor of political science at the University of Chicago and faculty affiliate of the Pearson Institute.

Americans see a shared responsibility for the two countries to address their international problems, including illegal immigration and drug trafficking. About two-thirds of Americans say the U.S. government

and Mexican government should both be responsible for preventing immigrants from Mexico or from other countries from getting into the U.S. illegally through Mexico. An even larger share, or about three-quarters of Americans, say the governments should both be responsible for preventing illegal drug trafficking from Mexico to the U.S.

"We need as best relations as possible," said Kris Ben-

nefield, 41, of San Augustine, Texas. "We should be working hand in hand with Mexico to take the cartels down."

The results come as several of the Republican presidential candidates say they would use military force against Mexico in response to the trafficking of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. As the Israel-Hamas war rages on, some in the GOP field are suggesting without evidence that militants may be taking advantage of the mass arrivals of migrants to come through the U.S.-Mexico border.

Americans place a high level of importance on preventing illegal immigration across the border between the U.S. and Mexico: 53% of U.S. adults call this an important foreign policy goal. Republicans (80%) are more likely than Independents (50%) and Democrats (35%) to call this important. Slightly fewer (43%) Americans say it's important to create more opportunities for legal immigration from Mexico to the U.S., with Democrats (57%) being more likely than Republicans (25%) to prioritize this. □

## Marine killed in homicide at Camp Lejeune; second Marine held for suspected involvement

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP)** —

A Marine was killed in a homicide at Camp Lejeune and a second Marine was held on suspicion of being involved, the base said.

Base authorities took the Marine into custody about 10:15 p.m. Wednesday after an incident that occurred in a barracks room on the North Carolina base earlier in the evening, a statement from the base said.

The statement called the death a homicide and described the other Marine as a suspect but didn't provide any other details,

including how the Marine died.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service will investigate the death, according to a statement released by the base on Thursday afternoon.

The sprawling Camp Lejeune covers about 240 square miles (621 square kilometers) and is home to the II Marine Expeditionary Force. Its beaches and ranges provide training in amphibious assaults and urban warfare and it is used both for U.S. Marine training and for exercises involving other military forces from

around the world.

The death came two days before the base was scheduled to conduct annual training known as Exercise Urgent Response that "provides an opportunity for tenant commands to develop and exercise emergency security procedures," according to a press release.

In 2021, a Marine was shot and wounded in a barracks at the base. Authorities later determined that the shooting was accidental. □



**Signage stands on the main gate to Camp Lejeune Marine Base outside Jacksonville, N.C., on April 29, 2022.**

**Associated Press**



## Evidence shows Hamas militants likely used some North Korean weapons in attack on Israel

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM, KIM TONG-HYUNG and JON GAMBRELL** Associated Press  
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Hamas fighters likely fired North Korean weapons during their Oct. 7 assault on Israel, a militant video and weapons seized by Israel show, despite Pyongyang's denials that it arm the militant group. South Korean officials, two experts on North Korean arms and an Associated Press analysis of weapons captured on the battlefield by Israel point toward Hamas using Pyongyang's F-7 rocket-propelled grenade, a shoulder-fired weapon that fighters typically use against armored vehicles.

The evidence shines a light on the murky world of the illicit arms shipments that sanction-battered North Korea uses as a way to fund its own conventional and nuclear weapons programs. Rocket-propelled grenade launchers fire a single warhead and can be quickly reloaded, making them valuable weapons for guerrilla forces in running skirmishes with heavy vehicles. The F-7 has been documented in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and the Gaza



**Suspected North Korean-made F-7 rocket-propelled grenades, many with a distinctive red stripe on their warhead, are seen at an Israeli military base in southern Israel, Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023.**  
Associated Press

Strip, said N.R. Jenzen-Jones, a weapons expert who works as the director of the consultancy Armament Research Services.

"North Korea has long supported Palestinian militant groups, and North Korean arms have previously been documented amongst interdicted supplies," Jenzen-Jones told the AP. Hamas has published images of their fighters with a launcher with a rocket-propelled grenade with a distinctive red stripe across its warhead, and other design

elements matching the F-7, said Matt Schroeder, a senior researcher with Small Arms Survey who wrote a guide to Pyongyang's light weapons.

"It is not a surprise to see North Korean weapons with Hamas," Schroeder said.

The North Korean F-7 resembles the more widely distributed Soviet-era RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade, with a few noticeable differences. Jenzen-Jones described the F-7 rocket-propelled grenade as "intended to

offer a lethal effect against personnel" given its shape and payload, rather than armored vehicles.

Weapons seized by the Israeli military and shown to journalists also included that red stripe and other design elements matching the F-7.

In a background briefing with journalists Tuesday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff specifically identified the F-7 as one of the North Korean weapons it believed Hamas used in the attack. The Israeli military

declined to answer questions from the AP about the origin and the manufacturer of those rocket-propelled grenades, saying the ongoing war with Hamas prevented it from responding.

North Korea's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment from the AP. However, Pyongyang last week through its state-run KCNA news agency dismissed claims that Hamas used its weapons as "a groundless and false rumor" orchestrated by the United States. Hamas propaganda videos and photos previously have shown its fighters with North Korea's Bulsae guided anti-tank missile. Jenzen-Jones said he believed, based on imagery of the weapons wielded by Hamas fighters in the Oct. 7 attack, they also used North Korea's Type 58 self-loading rifle, a variant of the Kalashnikov assault rifle. "Many North Korean weapons have been provided by Iran to militant groups, and this is believed to be the primary way by which Palestinian militants have come to possess North Korean weapons," Jenzen-Jones said. □

## Pakistan court grants protection from arrest to ex-leader Nawaz Sharif

By **MUNIR AHMED** Associated Press  
ISLAMABAD (AP) — A court in Pakistan on

Thursday granted several days of protection from arrest to former Prime Minister

Nawaz Sharif in graft cases, clearing the way for him to return home from self-imposed exile in London, where he went in 2019 for medical treatment.

The decision by the Islamabad High Court is a major boost for Sharif and his party and comes two days before he is to return to Pakistan ahead of parliamentary elections in January as the country faces deepening political and economic turmoil.

Sharif has been a fugitive from justice since failing to appear before a Pakistan court in 2019. He traveled from London to Saudi

Arabia last week and is to return home on a special plane from Dubai on Saturday, according to his Pakistan Muslim League party. Sharif stepped down as prime minister in 2017 after being convicted of corruption.

Two years later, facing further graft charges, he complained of chest pains and was granted permission by his successor, Imran Khan, to travel to London for medical treatment following a court order.

Sharif prolonged his stay in London, saying his doctors were not allowing him to travel.

In 2020, an anti-graft court in Islamabad issued a warrant for his arrest after he failed to return home. The same court on Thursday suspended the arrest warrant for him until Oct. 24.

Also on Thursday, the Islamabad High Court granted Sharif bail until Oct. 24, giving him protection from arrest until then, according to his legal team.

Sharif's party hailed the court's decision. His special plane is to land at Islamabad's airport on Saturday, and he will travel to Lahore the same day to address a rally to be held at a public park under tight security. □



**Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif leaves a court in Lahore, Pakistan, on Oct. 8, 2018.**  
Associated Press



# Hundreds in Scotland told to evacuate as northern Europe braces for gale-force winds and floods

By SYLVIA HUI and JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Hundreds of people were being evacuated from their homes and schools closed in parts of Scotland on Thursday, as much of northern Europe braced for stormy weather, heavy rain and gale-force winds from the east.

The U.K.'s weather forecaster, the Met Office, issued a rare red alert the highest level of weather warning for parts of Scotland, predicting "exceptional rainfall" Thursday and Friday that is expected to cause extensive flooding and "danger to life from fast-flowing or deep floodwater."

The last red alert in the U.K. was issued in 2020.

Forecasters say the storm, named Babet by U.K. officials, could bring more than a month's worth of rain in the worst-affected regions in Scotland.

Babet already brought floods and swollen rivers that swamped several towns and villages in Ireland, with some areas re-



A view of waves, in Stonehaven, Scotland, Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, as the UK braces for heavy wind and rain from Storm Babet.

maining under water and without power Thursday. Soldiers helped with evacuation measures in the town of Middleton in County Cork, where more than 100 properties were flooded. Cork County Council said mor

In the town of Brechin, near Scotland's eastern coast, officials told residents of about 400 houses to evacuate to local rest centers. Schools, recreation centers and vaccination hubs in the area were closed and will remain shut on Friday. In Denmark, residents scrambled to place sandbags along exposed areas. In Assens on the central island of Funen, emergency services deployed huge rubber tubes in the harbor to counter rising water levels, broadcaster TV2 reported. Southern Denmark police urged people along the east coast to leave exposed areas if the weather predictions remain, saying cottages, harbors and other places could be flooded. TV2 reported that the region would likely see the worst flooding in 110 years,

and the Danish Meteorological Institute said waves could reach 4 meters (13 feet) along east-facing coasts. The southeastern Danish town of Koege wrote on its Facebook page that emergency workers were busy filling sandbags and urged citizens to "avoid unnecessary baths, dishes, laundry and other water-intensive activities," saying "the municipality's treatment plant was at risk of being overloaded."

Police in the area warned that roads may be blocked, urged people to secure valuables and advised against sleeping on their boats in the harbors, saying that "if something happens, emergency services cannot get to them," police spokesperson Brian Bang-Rasmussen said. Copenhagen's airport and the Danish national rail company warned of cancellations and delays Friday because of bad weather. Several ferry lines between Danish islands were suspended, as were ferries to Rostock in northern Germany and to Oslo. □

Associated Press

## Mahsa Amini is awarded EU human rights prize

**STRASBOURG, France**

**(AP)** — Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman who died in police custody in Iran last year, sparking worldwide protests against the country's conservative Islamic theocracy, was awarded the European Union's top human rights prize on Thursday. The EU award, named for Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, was created in 1988 to honor individuals or groups who defend human rights and fundamental freedoms. Sakharov, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, died in 1989.

Other finalists this year included Vilma Núñez de Es-

corcia and Roman Catholic Bishop Rolando Álvarez two emblematic figures in the fight for the defense of human rights in Nicaragua and a trio of women from Poland, El Salvador and the United States leading a fight for "free, safe and legal abortion." Amini died on Sept. 16, 2022, after she was arrested for allegedly violating Iran's mandatory headscarf law. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said that day will "live in infamy," adding that her "brutal murder" marked a turning point. "It has triggered a women-led movement that is mak-

ing history," she said as she announced the awarding of the prize to Amini and the Woman, Life, Freedom movement in Iran. "The world has heard the chants of 'Women, Life, Liberty.' Three words that have become a rallying cry for all those standing up for equality, for dignity and for freedom in Iran," Metsola said. Women have played a leading role in the protests, with many publicly removing the compulsory Islamic headscarf, known as the hijab. The 27-nation EU has imposed sanctions on Iranian officials and organizations



A woman holds a placard with a picture of Iranian woman Mahsa Amini during a protest against her death, in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

including ministers, military officers and Iran's morality police for human rights abuses over the protests. "We stand with those who, even from prison, continue to keep women, life and freedom alive," Metsola

said. "By choosing them as laureates for the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2023, this House remembers their struggle and continues to honor all those who have paid the ultimate price for liberty. □



## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

(Oranjestad) - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."



**The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, hand-crafts and jewelry!**

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach.

The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

### **Funny, how trash can change into treasures!**

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

### **Emergency services**

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100  
Police Tipline: 11141  
Ambulance: 911  
Fire Dept: 115  
Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000  
San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

### **Electrical power**

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### **Drinking water**

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### **Supermarket hours**

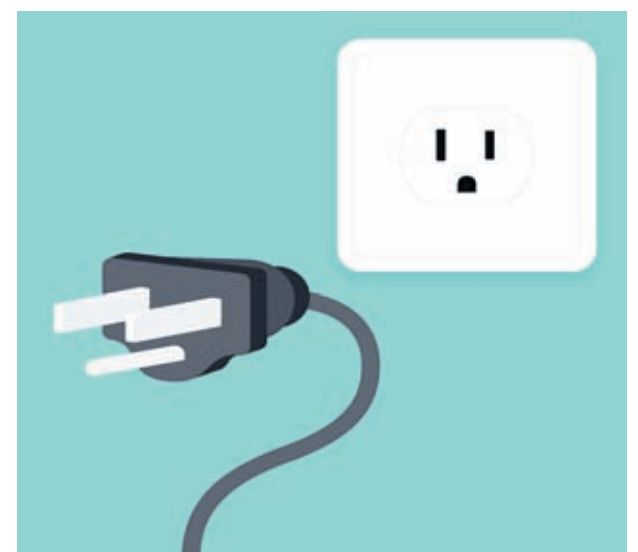
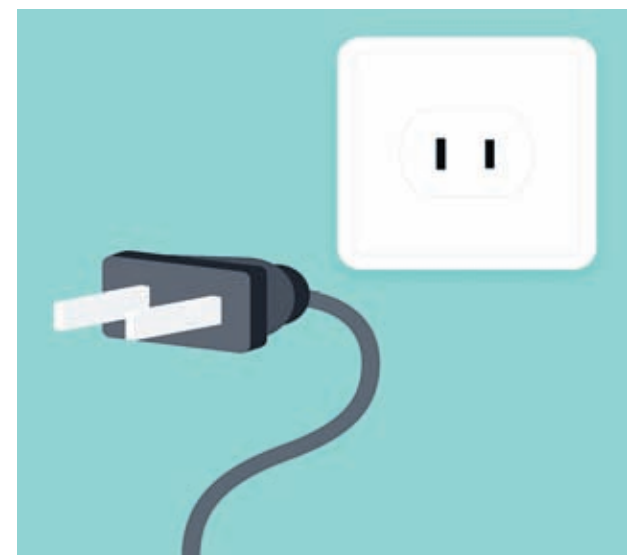
Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### **Taxis**


Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

### **Safety**

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. ☐








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## Experience Unrivalled Excitement and Win Big at LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba



**Oranjestad – Get ready to indulge in thrilling gaming experiences and a chance to strike it rich at LIV Casino, nestled within the luxurious Barceló Aruba resort. With a wide array of games and a captivating atmosphere, LIV Casino promises an unforgettable entertainment journey for visitors seeking excitement and good fortune.**

LIV Casino boasts an impressive selection of 123 slot machines, each waiting to make someone a lucky winner. Among these, 114 are Dollar machines and 9 are Florin machines cater to various preferences and betting levels, offering a diverse gaming experience that suits every player's style.

The casino is not just about slots – for those who relish the thrill of traditional table games, LIV Casino delivers on every front. Step up to the challenge at the Blackjack Table, where strategy meets chance, or take a spin at the Roulette Table for an electrifying game of luck. Additionally, the Three Card Poker

Table offers a unique blend of strategy and excitement, adding a new dimension to the gaming floor.

Adding to the anticipation, every table at LIV Casino features its own progressive jackpot, promising the potential for monumental winnings that could change a player's life in an instant.

The gaming action at LIV Casino comes alive from 11 AM to 3 AM, ensuring non-

stop excitement throughout the day and into the night. For those looking to experience the thrill of table games, the tables are open from 4:30 PM until closing, inviting players to try their hand at a variety of games while enjoying the vibrant casino ambiance.

"Try your luck with us at LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba," encourages Marc Charley, Casino General Manager of

LIV Casino. "We have crafted an environment where guests can immerse themselves in the thrill of gaming and experience the rush of winning big. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner, our diverse selection of games caters to all preferences."

LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba stands as a hub of entertainment, where visitors can not only try their luck but also revel in the world-class amenities and hospitality that the Barceló brand is renowned for.



### About LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba:

LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barceló Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 11 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. □

## Aruba to me



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## Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Barceló Aruba!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. This couple was honored with a certificate honoring their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

**The three honoring levels are as follows:**

Distinguished Visitor (10&gt;years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20&gt;years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35&gt;years consecutively visiting Aruba)

**The honorees were:**

Distinguished Visitors of Aruba Mr. Marcelo Dolan &amp; Mrs. Roxana Papagno from San Isidro, Argentina.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Barceló bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, and as their homeawayfromhome.

**Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:**Aruba's warm and friendly people  
Aruba's beauty  
"Aruba is a happy island"  
Aruba's safety  
Aruba's peacefulness

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

## Visit the island's hidden natural pools

**(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two "hidden" natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.**

**Conchi (Natural Pool)**

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known "Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and

receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the

rocks and jump in!

**Cave Pool**

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to



spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you

have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder. □

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## Episode LXX (70)

# International Indigenous Women Day Celebration



"What grandmother left behind" Locualmachi a laga" private collection

**ORANJESTAD — "Being an Indigenous woman means living under a society and 'civilization' that benefits from your voice lessons, invisibility, disappearance, non-existence, and erasure," said Rebecca Moore, an Iñu woman. International Indigenous Women's Day is held each year on 5th September. Although women fight for their rights and the rights of their people, not enough recognition is given to the efforts of women.**

Being born an indigenous girl can still be a life sentence of poverty, exclusion and discrimination in many regions today, largely rooted in the historical marginalization of indigenous communities and aggravated by overlapping circumstances such as race, ethnicity, disability and location. Analysis of available survey data shows that indigenous women and adolescent girls are significantly less likely to benefit from health services and have worse maternal health outcomes in many countries. Indigenous or Amerindian women are twice as likely to die as a result of preg-

nancy and childbirth compared to non-indigenous women.

But parallel to these current and unfortunate situation Indigenous women play important roles in their communities and beyond. In the case of Aruba, Indigenous women were the Eve of the modern or contemporary Aruban autochthone population, facing the challenge of educating her mestizo offspring's in to heirs of islands ethnic

genome and the Aruban culture.

Indigenous women traditionally played a central role within the tribal and later in Cristian family, however carrying their aboriginal government and spiritual ceremonies within them believes. Men and women enjoyed considerable personal autonomy and both performed functions vital to the survival of aboriginal communities. The men were responsible for provid-



"Irama" - Artistic representation of Caquetian princess private collection

ing food, clothing, shelter and security. Commerce with the mainland, seasonal farming, fishing and ranching wild horses, were the main activities back then. Women, daughters of corn were responsible for the domestic sphere and were viewed as both life-givers and the caretakers of life and heritage. As a result, women were responsible for the early socialization of children.

Indigenous women are the backbone of many American communities. Our mothers, sisters, aunts, cousins and grandmothers play major roles in the preservation of food security and culture heritage of this beloved rock. They also have a fundamental role as guardians of indigenous ancestral knowledge, having been traditionally caretakers of natural resources and managers of seeds and medicinal plants. In actual times they often take the lead in the de-

fense of indigenous lands and territories and advocating for the islands indigenous peoples' collective rights worldwide. In Aruba we have a group that advocates for the care and protection of nature led by a woman. Sister Tacamahaca, a native Aruban jurist urges by very valid arguments the need to protect nature and autochthone cultural heritage. Her group organizes awareness manifestations and protests on the island wide. Using media awareness campaigns through her group called PAW; Proud Aruban Warriors.

"We aim to protect our ancestral grounds and nature for our future generations"—Tacamahaca

To get to know more about Aruba and its origins, its animals, culture etc., we highly recommend you to book your participation. Living our cultural encounters session is mind opening and entertaining. Mail us at [etniana03@gmail.com](mailto:etniana03@gmail.com). Our facilities and activities take place close to your accommodation. □



**Article by: Etnia Nativa**

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## Aruba's underwater wonderland



**ORANJESTAD** - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

### Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

### Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it

had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

### Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

### Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in



Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel

Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

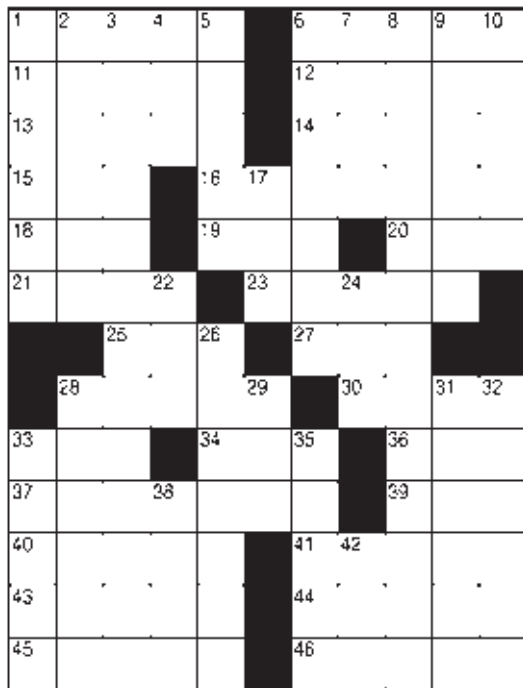
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- 41 Grayish
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  - 15 Train unit
  - 16 Watch
  - 18 Dressing part
  - 19 Catch in the act
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  - 25 Spot
  - 27 Agreeable answer
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  - 30 Nick and Nora's dog
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  - 40 Soda flavor

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- 1 Kremlin setting
- 2 Bakery treat
- 3 Morticia's creator
- 4 Baseball's Ron
- 5 Hot crime
- 6 "Extra!" shouter
- 7 Suit to —
- 8 Linus's creator
- 9 Jimmy Stewart film
- 10 Start
- 17 Naughty head
- 22 Homer's neighbor
- 24 Casserole bit
- 26 Heartfelt
- 28 Coarse-spun cotton
- 29 Central
- 31 Pate cover
- 32 Convent
- 33 — Carta
- 35 Cookout spot
- 38 Fencing sword
- 42 Bother



Yesterday's answer



10-20

AXYDI,BAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-20

## CRYPTOQUOTE

OMTJT UJT ZHJT OMXIYF XI  
MTUWTI UIB TUJOM. MIJUCXH.  
OMUI UJT BJTUZO HQ XI VHNJ  
RMXKHFRMV. — FMUDTERTUJT.  
"MUZKTO"

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HOME IS NOT WHERE YOU WERE BORN; HOME IS WHERE ALL YOUR ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE STOP. — NAGUIB MAHFOUZ

# A surge in wealth has boosted most U.S. households since 2020 and helped sustain economic growth

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The net worth of the typical U.S. household grew at the fastest pace in more than three decades from 2020 through 2022, while relatively low interest rates at that time made it easier for households to pay their debts, according to a government report Wednesday. Wealth for the median household the midpoint between the richest and poorest households jumped 37% during those three years, the Federal Reserve reported, to nearly \$193,000. (The figures are adjusted for inflation.) The increase reflected primarily a jump in home values and higher stock prices and a rise in the proportion of Americans who own homes and stocks. The jump in wealth occurred even as the brief but brutal pandemic recession cost 20 million Americans their jobs in 2020. Extensive government relief aid, totaling about \$5 trillion, helped spur a rapid recovery that regained the lost jobs much faster than had been true after the 2008-2009 recession. The additional spending, though, is believed to have helped fuel the worst bout of inflation in four decades.

The broad-based wealth increase helps explain the surprising durability of the U.S. economy this year and the consumer spending that powers about two-thirds of it. For at least a year, economists have been warning of a forthcoming recession. Yet the



Macy Norman, center, serves a table of guests at Puckett's Grocery and Restaurant, on Sept. 10, 2021, in Nashville, Tenn. Associated Press

economy has kept chugging along. Economic growth in the just-completed July-September quarter might have topped a robust 4% annual rate, boosted by strong consumer spending for physical goods as well as for services, a broad category that includes airline travel, entertainment, restaurant meals and other experiences. Government-provided stimulus payments in the aftermath of the pandemic also boosted households' finances. The median value of checking and savings accounts and other cash holdings surged 30%, according to the Fed's survey, which it conducts every three years. And with borrowing rates historically low, Americans dedicated just 13.4% of their incomes to paying off debt in 2022, the lowest such proportion since the Fed survey began in 1989. Even so, substantial wealth inequality remained in

place during the survey period, reflecting decades of widening disparities between the richest households and everyone else. Among the wealthiest 10% of households, median wealth reached nearly \$3.8 million in 2022. Still, more Americans bought individual stocks after the pandemic a likely reflection, in some way, of the "meme stock" craze that was fueled partly by stimulus checks. The proportion of families that directly owned stocks as opposed through mutual funds jumped from 15% to 21%, a record increase, the survey found.

The median value of individual stock holdings was \$15,000, the Fed report said. The average value of direct stock ownership was much higher \$404,000 the survey found, reflecting the holdings of richer families. Household net worth rose more, on a percentage basis, for Black and Hispanic households than for white ones, though measured in dollar terms the disparities remained wide. The median net worth of Black households jumped 60% but remained comparatively low at \$45,000. For Hispanics, the figure surged 47% to nearly \$62,000. Among white households, median household net worth rose 31% to \$285,000. □

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# Federal forecasters predict warm, wet U.S. winter but less snow because of El Nino, climate change

By SETH BORENSTEIN  
AP Science Writer

The upcoming United States winter looks likely to be a bit low on snow and extreme cold outbreaks, with federal forecasters predicting the North to get warmer than normal and the South wetter and stormier.

A strong El Nino heavily moderates and changes the storm tracks of what America is likely to face from December to February, with an added warming boost from climate change and record hot oceans, officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Thursday in releasing their winter outlook.

The forecast warmth will likely turn some storms that would have dumped snow into rain in the nation's northern tier, but there's also "some hope for snow lovers," with one or two possible whopping Nor'easters for the East Coast, said Jon Gottschalk, operations branch chief of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. Parts of the East Coast, particularly the Mid-Atlantic, may get more snow than normal because of that, he said.

Most of the country is predicted to be warmer than normal with that warmth stretching north from Tennessee, Missouri, Nebraska and Nevada, along with nearly all of California. The rest of the nation is forecast to be near normal or have equal chances for warm, cold or normal. NOAA doesn't predict any part of the U.S. to be cooler than normal this winter.

"The greatest odds for warmer than average conditions are in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and northern New England," Gottschalk said. A similarly large southern swath of the country is predicted to be wetter. The forecast of added moisture stretches from Massachusetts down the East Coast along most of the South below Tennessee, and extending west



Travis Grout uses his cross country snow skis to get around the West Front of the Capitol in Washington, Feb. 6, 2010.

through Texas, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and most of California, but excluding good chunks of New Mexico and Arizona. The Great Lakes region and the furthest northern parts of the nation stretching from Lake Erie to eastern Washington are forecast to be drier than normal.

All this is because of El Nino, which is a natural periodic warming of parts of the Pacific that changes weather patterns worldwide and

generally heats up global temperatures, Gottschalk and other NOAA scientists said. El Nino has its strongest effects, especially in the United States, during the winter. That's when it sends the jet stream, which moves storm fronts, on an unusual path that is dominated by warmer and wetter Pacific air plunging south. □

Associated Press



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# Q&A: Errol Morris on his John le Carré documentary 'The Pigeon Tunnel'

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Errol Morris has just sat down with a reporter when his wife calls. "I'm being deposed," Morris says, smiling, into his phone. "I hope that it's going to turn into a criminal investigation, but I believe it's just an interview."

Morris, the veteran documentarian of "The Thin Blue Line," "The Fog of War" and "The Unknown Known," knows a thing or two about interviews. He famously invented a contraption called "The Interrotron" to capture face-to-face eye contact on camera.

In his latest film, "The Pigeon Tunnel," Morris sits down with the celebrated spy novelist John le Carré, the enigmatic author of "The Spy Who Came in From the Cold" and "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy." The interviews were conducted shortly before the author's death in 2020 at the age of 89.

Their exchange probes the life and work of le Carré, whose real name was David Cornwell, and who as a former British intelligent agent was, himself, expert in conducting interrogations. The film, which opens Friday in select theaters and on Apple TV+, is based on le Carré's 2016 memoir of the same name. It's also an investigation into the murky depths of human nature and of history, where fact and fiction often blur. The conversation has been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP:** Some of the first interviews you ever conducted were with the serial killer Ed Gein, whose murders inspired Robert Bloch's novel "Psycho" and Alfred Hitchcock's film. I don't know if you consider that the beginning...

**Morris:** It's certainly one of the starting points.

**AP:** Why do you think that was, that your life as an interviewer began in such a dark place?

**Morris:** I really don't know if it has a simple answer. Maybe I felt comfortable talking



This image released by Apple TV+ shows John le Carré, left, and filmmaker Errol Morris on the set of "The Pigeon Tunnel."

to people. It was one of the ways I investigated murder, certainly Ed Gein's murders in Waushara County, Wisconsin. It wasn't just interviews. I mean, it's a pattern in a lot of the films that I made, certainly the early films. "The Thin Blue Line" was a lot of interviews, but it was a lot of just research. I worked as a private detective, and what did I do as a private detective? The same damn thing. Talking to people. Research. I had a friend who once told me that you couldn't trust people who didn't talk a lot because how else would you know what they're thinking? And I think there is some truth to this. When people talk, they have a way of revealing things about themselves. Didn't Freud have that idea?

**AP:** Was that your approach to interviewing le Carré?

**Morris:** What really puzzles me about some of the press in connection with "The Pigeon Tunnel" is they talk about it as a contest between me and David Cornwell. Maybe he saw it that way, but I never saw it that way. I've never seen any interview that way. I often like to say that I belong to the shut-the-fup school of interviewing. If you just let

people talk, within a very short period of time they will reveal how crazy they are. That certainly motivated "Gates of Heaven." "Gates of Heaven" is a series of interviews but they're monologues. Then I had this idea, what if I made a movie this was around the time I did Robert McNamara for "The Fog of War" what if I break some kind of standard rule? I love, by the way, breaking rules.

**AP:** Reenactments, most notably in "The Thin Blue Line," were breaking a rule, weren't they?

**Morris:** They were. It doesn't matter if it's documentary or drama, it's all fake. It's all reenacted. It's all recreated. The oddity of all this was that there was this idea that documentary by just the very fact that it was made was truthful. Call it a naïve idea I would call it a naïve idea. Truth isn't something that's handed through some kind of style or process of filmmaking. "The Thin Blue Line," I thought, was endlessly misunderstood.

**AP:** It did lead to justice, vindicating an innocent man. As much as you've thought about subjectivity in photography, that was a film that arrived at some truth.

**Morris:** Eh. There's a line that I just adore in "The Pigeon Tunnel." There's an illustration from "The Looking Glass War" about how people see the world differently inarguable. But the fact that people see the world differently does not mean the truth is subjective. It's an important distinction and a confusion that's made endlessly.

**AP:** Especially nowadays.

**Morris:** Especially nowadays, where the whole idea of truth is challenged. I have a friend who was probably the greatest living philosopher he died recently Saul Kripke. And we were talking about "Rashomon." His explanation for "Rashomon," he said: "Oh, it's obvious. They're all lying." People don't have to be lying. They can be self-deceived. They can be confused. We see the world differently. And then David talks about objective truth, that he believes in objective truth as do I.

**AP:** Le Carré and you would seem to share some of the same obsessions. Did you feel sympathetic with him?

**Morris:** Well, I really like him. And yes. I mean, I've never made a film where I haven't thought after the fact that I could have done a better job, and this film is

no exception. I didn't know that he would die so soon after that interview. People say I must have known or he must have known that it was to be his last interview. But I don't think so. Just look at him on screen. He's all there. This is not a man who is failing. It's a man who's at the top of his form. Extraordinarily fast, articulate, knowledgeable, funny, perverse. Yeah, that's where I identify with him most of all his funny, perverse sense of humor.

**AP:** The central, mysterious metaphor of le Carré's, "The Pigeon Tunnel" a tunnel that funnels pigeons to shotgun-wielding men looms throughout the film.

**Morris:** I've often compared the writing to a Kafka parable, except John le Carré wrote it. What does it mean? To take one of the most famous Kafka parables, "Before the Law": "This door was meant for you and you alone and now I'm going to shut it." Now what does this mean? The pigeons, are they us? Who are the shooters? Is it the kind of parable that you need to think of in that way? It's Sisyphean. People just endlessly doing things without even knowing why.

**AP:** That sounds like the view of history in "The Fog of War" everyone just bumbling through.

**Morris:** Because we live in an era where people are just saturated with conspiracy theories of one form or the other. Conspiracies sort of simplify the world. They make the world intelligible to people. They do turn the world into string pullers and dupes. When I did the (Steve) Bannon movie ( "American Dharma" ), Bannon was completely obsessed with cyclical history, and I would say fascists love cyclical history. Because: "Man isn't the author of anything. All there is is dharma, destiny." I believe something much closer to what you just said that history is a muddle. People are at cross-purposes with each other. □



# WNBA champion Aces built for a three-peat with finals MVP A'ja Wilson, core group returning

By **DOUG FEINBERG**  
AP Basketball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A'ja Wilson and the Las Vegas Aces are poised for a possible three-peat as WNBA champions and continue one of the greatest runs in league history.

They capped off a history-making regular season with a second consecutive championship and their core group of players WNBA Finals MVP Wilson, Kelsey Plum, Jackie Young and Chelsea Gray are all returning. And that quartet is in their prime: Young is 26 years old, Wilson 27, Plum 29 and Gray 31.

"This is a moment that we need to celebrate," said Wilson, who finished with 24 points and 16 rebounds for the short-handed Aces in the Game 4 clincher Wednesday night.

The Aces joined the Los Angeles Sparks (2001-02) and the Houston Comets (1997-2000) as the only teams in league history to win consecutive titles.

Wilson knew how tough it would be to win back-to-



Las Vegas Aces' A'ja Wilson and Mark Davis celebrate with teammates next to the trophy after Game 4 of a WNBA basketball final playoff series against the New York Liberty Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, in New York. The Aces won 70-69.

back titles. It will be tougher to win three straight.

Her Aces teammates Gray and Candace Parker, who missed the final three months of the season and the playoffs after suffering a broken foot, had a chance to repeat when they played with the Sparks

and couldn't do it. Parker also had the opportunity when she won a title with Chicago and that didn't happen either.

"It takes a lot. It takes skill, a little bit of luck and health. The Aces had none of that and still were able to will," said Parker, who became

the first player ever to win three titles with three different teams. "I definitely think it makes it more special." Wilson sought out the advice of Cynthia Cooper-Dyke and Sheryl Swoopes, who were part of the Comets dynasty, asking them what it took to repeat. The

Vegas forward said the two Hall of Famers told her: "Go do it. Be better than you were last game."

The 6-foot-4 Wilson heeded the advice, dominating as the stage and each moment got bigger. She stepped up Wednesday when Las Vegas needed her most, playing without Gray and starting center Kiah Stokes. Wilson became the first player in league history to have two 20-point, 15-rebound games in the WNBA Finals. She was a major reason Las Vegas won 34 games in the regular season and went 8-1 in the playoffs.

"We've been facing adversity all season, playing without different players. ... We have some professional fighters," said Alysha Clark, who joined the Aces in the offseason and won her third championship. "To weather the storm of everything we went through, to show up every single day. To be in this moment right now and do it together, it speaks volumes about us, our chemistry." □

Associated Press

## Nolan Arenado's streak of consecutive Gold Gloves at third base ends at 10

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Nolan Arenado's streak of consecutive Gold Gloves has ended at 10.

The St. Louis Cardinals third baseman was not among the three finalists announced Wednesday. Pittsburgh's Ke'Bryan Hayes, Colorado's Ryan McMahon and Atlanta's Austin Riley are contending for the award, which will be announced Nov. 5.

Arenado won in each of his first 10 seasons, matching the high set by Seattle outfielder Ichiro Suzuki from 2001 to 2010.

Players who won last year and are among the 2023 finalists are Cleveland second baseman Andrés Giménez and left fielder Steven Kwan, Houston right fielder Kyle Tucker, Philadelphia catcher J.T. Realmuto, Arizona first baseman Chris-

tian Walker, Chicago Cubs shortstop Dansby Swanson and left fielder Ian Happ, and Los Angeles right fielder Mookie Betts, who played 107 games in right, 70 at second and 16 at shortstop.

Betts, who has won six straight Gold Gloves, also is a finalist at the utility role, a category added last year. Voting is conducted among managers and up to six coaches from each team, who can't select players on their own club. Since 2013, voting has been factored with a Society for American Baseball Research defensive index, which comprises about 25% of the total.

The utility category is based on SABR formula and additional defensive statistics.

The finalists:

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Pitcher: José Berríos (Toronto), Sonny Gray (Minnesota), Pablo López (Minnesota)

Catcher: Jonah Heim (Texas), Alejandro Kirk (Toronto), Adley Rutschman (Baltimore)

First base: Nathaniel Lowe (Texas), Ryan Mountcastle (Baltimore), Anthony Rizzo (New York)

Second base: Mauricio Dubón (Houston), Andrés Giménez (Cleveland), Marcus Semien (Texas)

Shortstop: Carlos Correa (Minnesota), Corey Seager (Texas), Anthony Volpe (New York)

Third base: Alex Bregman (Houston), Matt Chapman (Toronto), José Ramírez (Cleveland)

Left field: Austin Hays (Baltimore), Steven Kwan (Cleveland), Daulton Varsho (Toronto)



St. Louis Cardinals third baseman Nolan Arenado throws to first for the out on Kansas City Royals' Samad Taylor during the third inning of a baseball game, Aug. 12, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

Center field: Kevin Kiermaier (Toronto), Luis Robert Jr. (Chicago), Julio Rodríguez (Seattle)  
Right field: Adolis García (Texas), Kyle Tucker (Houston), Alex Verdugo (Boston)  
Utility: Mauricio Dubón (Houston), Zach McKinstry (Detroit), Taylor Walls (Tampa Bay)

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pitcher: Jesús Luzardo (Miami), Taijuan Walker (Phil-

adelphia), Zack Wheeler (Philadelphia)

Catcher: Patrick Bailey (San Francisco), Gabriel Moreno (Arizona), J.T. Realmuto (Philadelphia)

First base: Freddie Freeman (Los Angeles), Carlos Santana (Milwaukee), Christian Walker (Arizona)

Second base: Nico Hoerner (Chicago), Ha-Seong Kim (San Diego), Bryson Stott (Philadelphia) □



# The Lakers' LeBron James is redefining NBA longevity as he reaches his 21st season

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) —

LeBron James is already the defining figure of this basketball era with his strength, skills, smarts and relentless will to win.

The Los Angeles Lakers superstar now seems determined to redefine how long an elite player can stay on top.

James begins his 21st NBA season next week with his 39th birthday looming in December, yet the top scorer in league history shows shockingly few signs of decline from his peerless standard of performance. From a statistical standpoint, James' prolific production hasn't waned in any significant way for two full decades.

James admits he can feel the years. For everybody else, they're almost impossible to see.

"I feel different. I'm not a 21-year-old, that's for sure," James said with a laugh. "Feels a little bit different getting out of bed every day. But as far as my energy level, I feel pretty good." From Tom Brady to Kelly Slater, modern athletes across all sports have rewritten the traditional guidelines around age and decline in the 21st century. Few have ever done it like James, whose ascent to the throne of the NBA's oldest player caught his Lakers teammates by surprise.

"He sure doesn't play like it," Austin Reaves said. "He's still out here making us look bad in practice."

James makes this unprecedented NBA longevity look relatively easy, yet he also smiles and deflects when asked about his endgame. He says he doesn't know how long he wants to play, and he admits he thought hard about walking away after last season before he decided to return to the Lakers while even keeping an eye on the Paris Olympics next summer.

"I don't know what the end is going to look like," he said. "I have no idea."



James is the sixth player in league history to make it into a 21st season, but nobody has ever played this many years at James' current level of performance — with the caveat that James got a jump on his career by entering the league directly out of high school, of course.

That difference gives him more NBA seasons at a younger age, but also more wear and tear on his body from competition against other grown men. It's still increasingly clear that nobody has ever stayed as good as LeBron for as long as LeBron, who averaged 28.9 points, 8.3 rebounds and 6.8 assists per game last season.

The other five NBA players to reach 21 seasons — Robert Parish, Kevin Willis, Dirk Nowitzki, Vince Carter and Kevin Garnett — were all markedly diminished from their peaks. Only Carter played a 22nd season, but James currently seems capable of obliterating that barrier if he wishes.

While nearly all NBA players who lasted even to their mid-30s took precipitous

**Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) shoots a 3-pointer over Brooklyn Nets guard Cam Thomas (24) during the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, in Las Vegas.**

Associated Press

declines in effectiveness before hanging up their sneakers, the former teenage phenomenon from Akron is still an elite, All-Star-caliber performer on a strong team. The Lakers reached the Western Conference finals under James' leadership last season, and they look capable of contending for his fifth title.

While James' merciless work ethic is the stuff of NBA legend, he also cites more holistic reasons for his ability keep up in a sport that demands youthlike athleticism now more than ever. "It's just staying focused and being passionate about the purity of the game," James said. "Understanding the ones that came before me, respecting the history of the game, and also understanding that if you want to be great at something, you've got to put in the work. There's no substitution for work. I put in the work on the court, off the court."

Only injuries significantly

slowed James during the end of his second decade in professional basketball. James has missed 80 games over the past three seasons, sitting out roughly one-third of the Lakers' regular-season contests.

He was slowed last spring by an injured tendon in his right foot, but he still extended his streak to a jaw-dropping 282 playoff games without an absence.

James and the Lakers are working harder than ever to keep him healthy this season — and for who knows how many more years to come.

Along with consulting James and Anthony Davis on minute management, the Lakers have complemented their stars with a deep roster containing more playmakers than last season, possibly freeing James from some of the heavier work in initiating the offense.

"That goes into making us more efficient in how we manage (James)," Lakers

coach Darvin Ham said. "Now that we have, top to bottom, what we feel like is a highly balanced, skilled, younger team of guys who've logged a ton of NBA minutes, we can surround both (James) and AD with players that are eager to contribute and impact winning. And Bron does a great job of taking care of himself."

A player who has done it all and won it all might struggle for motivation, but James always has new worlds to conquer.

A year after he surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's career scoring record, James begins the new year just 549 minutes away from passing Abdul-Jabbar's record for the most minutes played in NBA history. With good health, he'll almost certainly become the first person to score 40,000 points in the NBA. □